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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 17 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith Decision No. 390 adopted by the Twenty-third Council of the Latin American Economic System, held from 6 to 9 October 1997 in Trinidad and Tobago, entitled the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

I request that the text of this decision be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30.

(Signed) Bruno RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Decision No. 390

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The Latin American Council,

In view of:

Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of article 3, article 4, and subparagraphs 1 (a) and 4 of article 5 of the Panama Convention;

Decision No. 112 on the "Imposition of economic measures of a coercive nature";

Decisions Nos. 356 and 360, which reject the application of unilateral measures which affect the free flow of international trade, and violate international law and the most elementary principles of regional coexistence;

Decision No. 377 on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba";

Resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995 and 51/17 of 12 November 1996 of the United Nations General Assembly, which call for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo of the United States of America against Cuba;

The document of the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) entitled "Monitoring the implementation of the so-called 'Helms-Burton Act'" (SP/CL/XXIII.0/Di No.1);

The statements made so far this year by the Association of Caribbean States (July 1997), the Summit of Heads of State of the Rio Group (August 1997) and the European Parliament (September 1997) rejecting any unilateral imposition that runs counter to the principles, rules and practices of free trade and internationally accepted investment.

Considering:

The need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation, which are enshrined in many international legal instruments;

That, despite rejection by the international community, further action continues to be taken to exacerbate the effects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, the extraterritorial nature of which affects the sovereignty of other States, as well as the interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction.

DECIDES:

Article 1. To reaffirm its most emphatic rejection of the so-called "Helms-Burton Act", and of the new attempts to reinforce this legislation in the Congress of the United States of America, since the Act disregards the fundamental principle of respect for sovereignty, contravenes the standards governing coexistence between States, imposes unilateral sanctions of an extraterritorial nature and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and of the principles and standards governing international trade;

Article 2. To reiterate its position in favour of the immediate lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and to urge the Government of the United States of America to repeal the so-called "Helms-Burton Act";

Article 3. To continue to promote among States members of SELA the official exchange of information and experience on the drawing up and implementation of the so-called "antidote laws or mirror-image laws" in response to the so-called "Helms-Burton Act";

Article 4. To request the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to continue its consideration of this item, which is of particular significance for external relations in the region, and to keep the Latin American Council informed of its progress.